









## "THE GUNPOWDER PLOT"

(Guy Fawkes Brought Before King James)

*After a painting of 1861 by the English artist, John Gilbert, R.A.*

QUEEN ELIZABETH died, an old and world-weary woman, in 1603. This left as the only possible heir to the throne, her distant cousin, King James of Scotland, who thus became king of England and united the whole of Great Britain under a single monarch. James proved himself a feeble but obstinate ruler. He was a queer looking little man, very cowardly of body though plucky enough of spirit. He thought he knew everything, and commencing his reign with all the tremendous power the Tudor kings had built up he employed that power for petty tyrannies, compelling everyone to do just as he said in trifles. He immediately revived the old religious troubles, and began persecuting the Catholics.

This persecution led a few desperate fanatics to prepare the notorious "gunpowder plot." Guy Fawkes and some confederates placed barrels of gunpowder under the House of Parliament intending to blow up both king and parliament. Fawkes was arrested and the plot came to nothing. King James insisted on examining the prisoner himself, but could only mumble his amazement that any one could be so wicked as to try to kill so good and learned a king as he. The people of England were as yet so loyal to the great Elizabeth's heir that they were deeply stirred by the discovery of Fawkes' plot. The anniversary of its prevention, November 5, has ever since been kept in England as a day of rejoicing, accompanied by fire-crackers, and bonfires whereon to burn Fawkes in effigy.















## ENGLISH DESPOTISM AT ITS HIGHEST

(Van Dyke at the Court of Charles I)

*From the painting by the contemporary Italian artist, E. Getti*

**K**ING JAMES by his obstinacy outraged almost every English prejudice. Yet so ingrained was the habit of obedience among his people that his reign came to a close with many mutterings but without open quarrel, and his son Charles I succeeded him peacefully upon the throne.

The early portion of Charles I's reign stands in striking contrast to the tragedy of its closing years. To be sure, Charles had trouble with his parliament right away, and carried despotism even further than his predecessors; for he dismissed his parliament altogether and ruled without one for eleven years. Even this, however, the Englishmen submitted to, so that those early years of Charles represent outwardly the very zenith of kingly power in England. The court of Charles was like that of his contemporary, Louis XIII of France, a scene of splendor, centering wholly round the king and his chosen ministers. Charles married a French princess, Henrietta, who was even more arrogant and extravagant than he. The one good thing he did was that he encouraged art. The great Dutch artist Van Dyke was made the court painter, and devoted much of his time to noted pictures of the children of Charles. Van Dyke also painted several very famous likenesses of King Charles himself. These fascinating pictures reveal and emphasize all that was good and gallant in the king, and have had much influence in persuading future generations that so noble-looking a man must surely have been an excellent king.















## KING OR PARLIAMENT

(Charles I Commands Parliament to Surrender its Five Chief Members)

*By the American artist, John S. Copley (1737-1815). The original is now in the Boston Public Library*

THE direct cause of the downfall of King Charles I arose not in England, but in Scotland. The English, in their deep respect for law, felt they could take no action except through parliament; and Charles would not call a parliament. The Scotch proved themselves less submissive to legal formalities. The state church of Scotland was much more radically Protestant than that of England, and Charles attempted to force the Scotch to adopt the English faith. They broke out in open rebellion, drove his officers from Scotland, and prepared to invade England and attack him there.

In this dilemma Charles perforce called an English parliament to aid him. Instead of doing so, they began to talk of reform in England. Charles hurriedly dismissed the parliament. The Scotch army advanced; and in despair Charles called a second parliament, and let it talk. This was the famous "Long Parliament" which continued its sittings through many changes and much warfare for twenty years (1640-1660). It passed several laws displeasing to the king, and he resolved to deal sternly with its offending members. He entered the parliament's hall with soldiers to arrest its five leading men. But the five had hidden, and the remainder refused to give them up. They defied the king. The issue was sharply established: which power was to rule England, king or parliament?













## THE GATHERING OF THE CAVALIERS

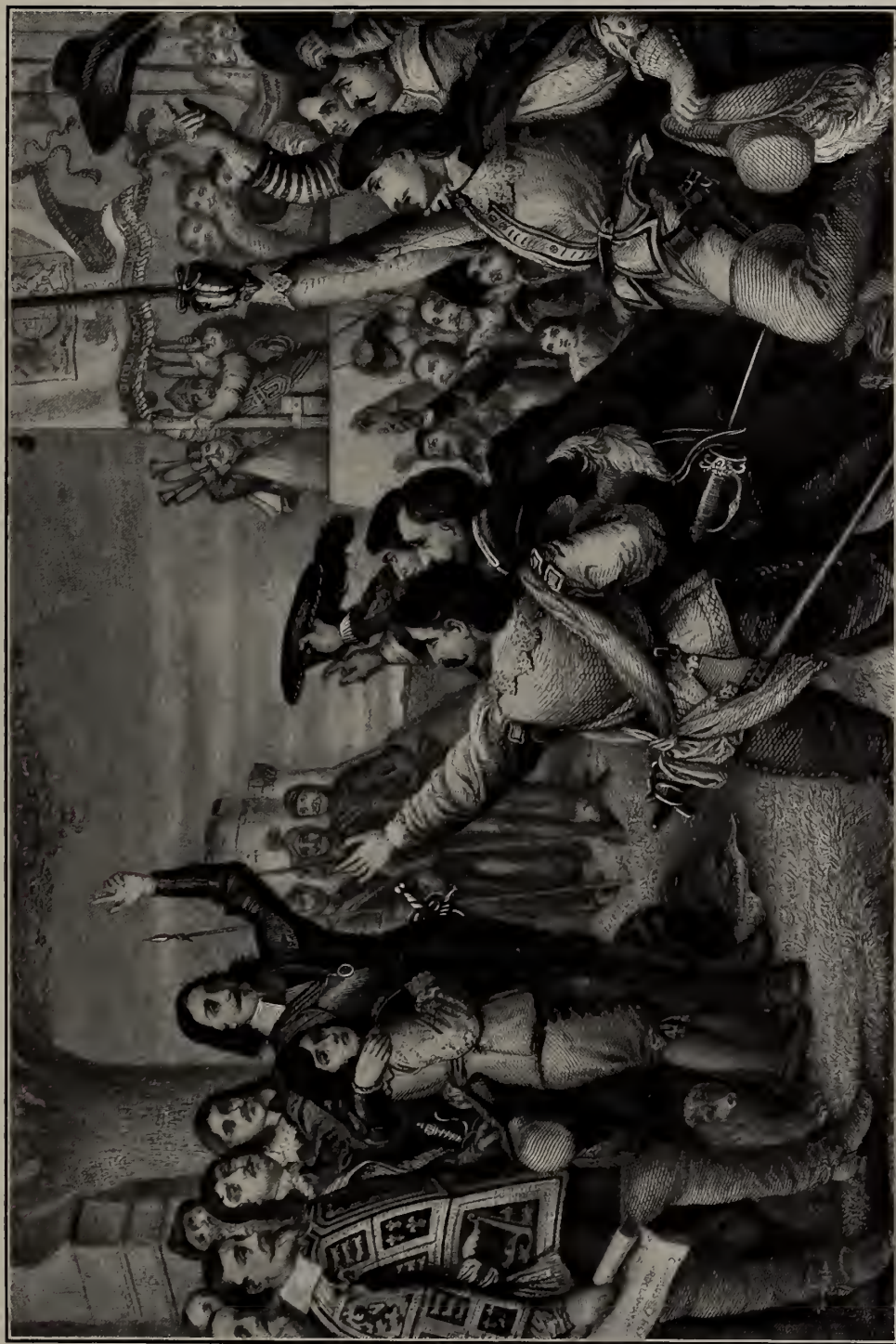
(King Charles I Proclaims His Open War Against Parliament)

*By C. W. Cope, R.A. (1811-1890), in the Peers Gallery of the English House of Parliament*

FROM open defiance to armed warfare is but a brief step; but Englishmen had not faced civil war for over a hundred and fifty years, not since Henry VII overthrew the murderous Richard on Bosworth field. They had learned to live by law and were loath indeed to return to deciding disputes by barbaric slaughter. Parliament waited; it passed another law taking control of the army out of the king's hands. Then Charles resolved that he must fight or surrender. He left London, where the people were strong in support of the parliament; and at the city of Nottingham, with his little son and heir Charles II by his side, he on August 22, 1642, unfurled the royal banner for war. He declared the members of parliament traitors who were seeking to rob him of his "divine right" to reign; and he summoned all loyal Englishmen to aid him in asserting his rights.

Many Englishmen joined him. The nobles were with him almost in a body. So were the bulk of the clergy, since they had long accepted the doctrine that the king was supreme head of the English church and must be obeyed. So were most of the peasantry of western England, since the king was still to these simple souls what Elizabeth had been, the champion of Protestant England against Catholic Spain and France and the tortures of the Inquisition. Hence they were a large and gallant party, these "Cavaliers" who gathered round King Charles I for England's most important civil war.













## TWO COUNTRY GENTLEMEN

(Cromwell, the Country Squire, Visits Milton, the Secluded Poet, Before  
Their Days of Fame)

*Painted by the English artist, David Neal*

**I**F such was the party of the "Cavaliers" who gathered round King Charles, who were his opponents? They were the middle classes of England, who were thus arrayed against the two extremes, the great lords and the ignorant peasantry. The rebels were the tax payers, the tradesmen of the cities and the small squires of the country. These had elected the parliament, and it voiced their views.

As typical representatives of these upholders of parliament we may well take the two men of the party who have become most famous, and whom our picture shows as they were before their fame, before the civil war shook England to its depths. Oliver Cromwell was a quiet country gentleman of forty, who managed his own small estate successfully. He was bluff, stout and red of face, a slow talker, but an earnest, serious thinker. Wholly unfamiliar with war or courts, he was almost the last man you would have selected as likely to prove a great military genius as well as a profound statesman. Near Cromwell's estate resided the gentle poet and musician, John Milton, delicate and beautiful as a woman, a dreamer of dreams and composer of solemn mystic harmonies. Who could guess that this spiritual being was to become the chief champion of rebellion with his pen, an aggressive brawler, shouting vituperations against his antagonists across half the face of Europe, a determined partisan insisting on the execution of his king.











THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

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## THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR

(King Charles I Goes to His Execution)

*From a painting by the contemporary English artist, J. Wappers*

THE Revolution headed by Cromwell led to the execution of Charles I. In the first battles after Charles unfurled his standard at Nottingham, the royal forces held their own. The parliamentary armies were poorly led and little accustomed to war. But gradually Cromwell forged to the front. He reorganized the rebel army; he infused it with his own iron spirit; he taught it to win victories. Charles, completely defeated, fled to Scotland. There he tried diplomacy, promising the Scots everything they wished. At the beginning he had risked his crown to force the English faith upon Scotland, now he offered to force the Scotch faith on England. His idea of diplomacy consisted of playing false with everybody. He intrigued even with the men of Cromwell's army, offering every concession they wished to each of the two religious sects of which it was composed, the "Independents" and "Puritans." He hoped thus to turn them against each other.

Finally all Charles' deceptions came to light. No man trusted him. Cromwell beat his Scotch army, and also his Irish adherents; and then declaring that England could know no peace while this false king lived, Cromwell summoned a court which tried and executed him. Charles met death with a quiet firmness which recalled him at his best, the hero king of Van Dyke's paintings.













## CROMWELL SEIZES CONTROL

(Cromwell is Formally Proclaimed Lord Protector of the English Republic)

*From the historical series by R. Caton Woodville*

**B**EFORE the English parliament had approved the death of King Charles it had twice been "purged," as the party of Cromwell named the process. That is, first the royalists had been driven out, and then the more moderate rebels. So that all of the "Long Parliament" still remaining in power consisted of about sixty resolute Puritans, whom their opponents ridiculed as the "Rump" or worthless remainder of a parliament. This little body now made England a republic.

Cromwell had still to fight to hold this party in power. The son of the king was proclaimed in Scotland as Charles II, but was easily defeated. Ireland rebelled and was so harried by Cromwell that his name remains to-day as that of the most hated of all Ireland's oppressors. Finally Cromwell felt that he could not even trust his "Rump Parliament." He had long urged its members to dissolve and permit a new parliament to be freely elected. But they refused. So at length Cromwell did what Charles I had attempted and failed in doing. He marched a squad of soldiers into the parliament and drove out its members, scolding and storming at them as they fled before his wrath. Then Cromwell summoned a council of his own and had himself made "Lord Protector of the British Isles" for life. All Englishmen feared him, many hated him; but with his devoted army at his back he was all-powerful.













## BLAKE'S VICTORY AT PLYMOUTH

(Admiral Blake Compels the Dutch to Take the Brooms of Triumph from Their Mastheads)

*From a painting by the recent French artist, Jules Noel*

THE English "Commonwealth" under Cromwell developed a naval hero who ranks in England's annals as second only to Drake and Nelson. This was Admiral Blake. Drake had broken the sea-power of the Spaniards. Nelson was yet to destroy that of the French under Napoleon. Blake overthrew that of the Dutch. Holland was at this time at the height of her renown. The long Thirty Years War which had desolated Europe and completed the ruin of Spain was just come to an end, and had left Holland the chief naval power of the continent. Her merchant ships had even grown to outnumber England's during the English civil war, and now Holland and England competed for the commerce of the world. The great Dutch admiral Van Tromp defeated the English fleet so roundly that he sailed along the English Channel with a broom lashed to his masthead to show that he had swept the English from the seas.

Blake met him in a terrific seafight off Plymouth in 1653 and beat him. The stubborn Dutch returned to the struggle again and yet again. But Blake defeated them so completely that at length they yielded. Dutch ships were pledged to salute the English in submission wherever they met on all the seas of the world. Thus the "Commonwealth" government became both feared and respected abroad.















## CROMWELL REFUSES A CROWN

Cromwell's Beloved Daughter Urges Him to Decline His Parliament's Offer to Crown Him)

*From a painting by the German artist, Julius Schrader*

AS the years of Cromwell's protectorship rolled by, it became more and more evident that the great mass of Englishmen disliked the religious sternness and severity of the Puritan rule. It was upheld only by the ability of Cromwell himself, and by the swords of the splendid army he had trained. Thus this nominal republic which was really a dictatorship continued undisturbed until the dictator's death.

Cromwell might have had the title of king. The council which he had appointed and which he called a parliament, urged him in 1657 to assume the crown. But he shrank from that last step. Already he could scarce control some of the fanatics of his army: they felt he was not severe enough in punishing their enemies. Plots were formed by men of extreme views on either side to murder Cromwell, and then sweep England with a vengeful sword. Every year the Protector found himself more alone, his life more dreary. He had a married daughter, Elizabeth, whom he deeply loved; and the legend which our picture represents says that he would have accepted the crown offered by his council but for Elizabeth's passionate pleadings against it. More probably, however, he had little wish for the vain bauble; and he knew his soldiers clung to the idea of republican government, and would scarce uphold him as a self-crowned king.













# CONTAINERS

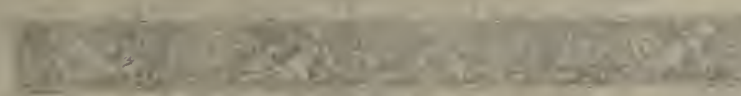
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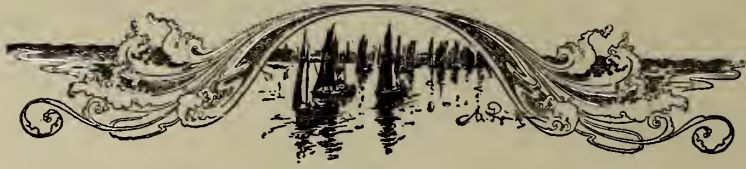
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## THE RESTORATION

(Charles II, Summoned Back to England, is Welcomed at Dover)

*From a drawing by the English artist, W. Thomas*

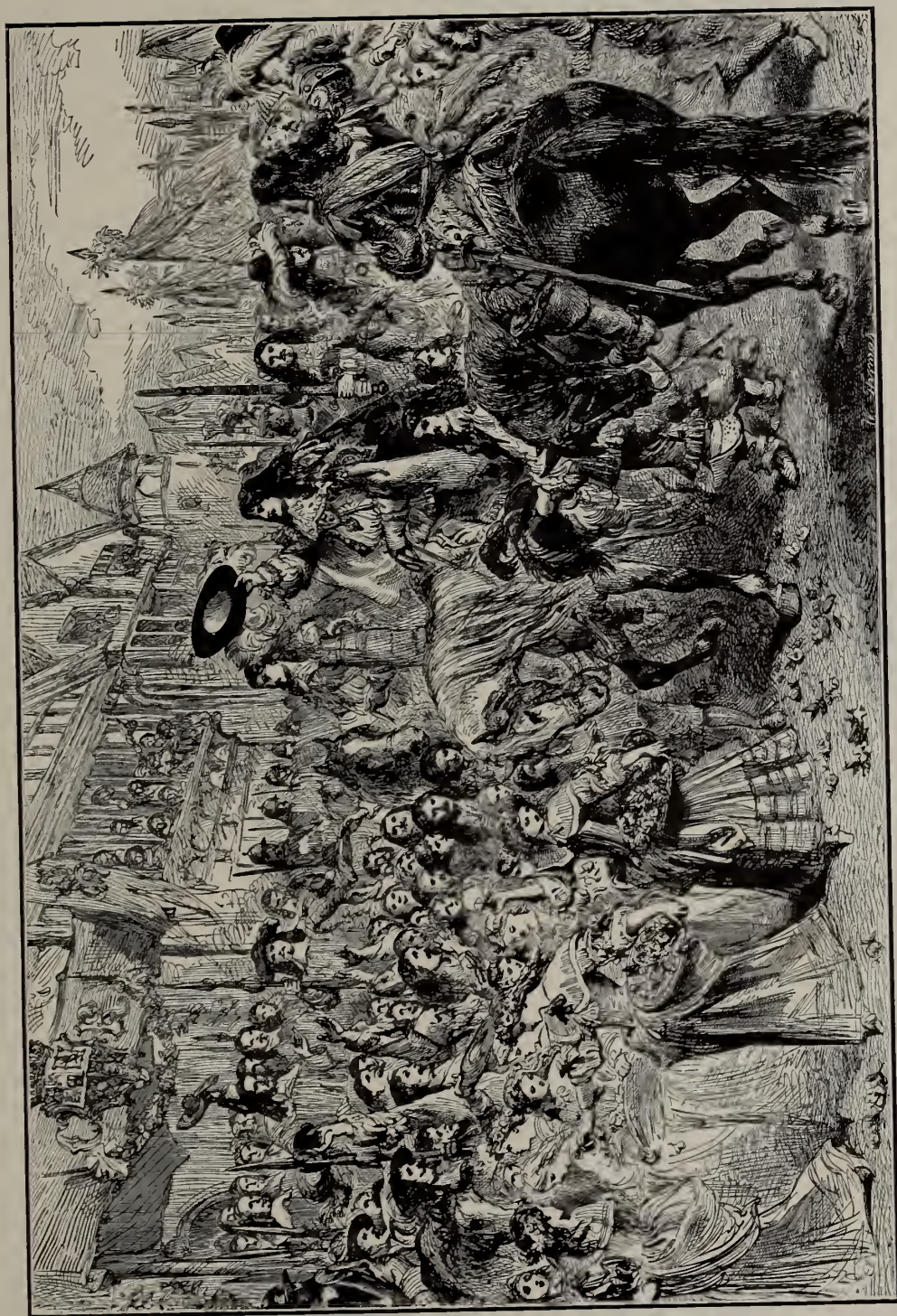
CROMWELL died in 1658. He had arranged that his son Richard should succeed him as Lord Protector, and his army carried out his wish. But Richard, though an honest and able man, was no such iron autocrat as his father. He desired a government truly representative of all the people; and as this grew plain to his army the leaders demanded his resignation. He resigned readily enough; he had neither the disposition nor the desire to lead a band of fanatics. Again the army leaders found they could not agree among themselves. All the factions Cromwell had so firmly held under control were now in loud dispute. At length one leader, General Monk, mastered the others, and declared for that long desired settlement of affairs, a freely elected parliament.

The parliament so elected met in 1660 and did what every one had anticipated it would from the moment of Monk's announcement. It invited Charles II, son of the beheaded Charles I, to come back from exile and take control of the kingdom, though under some restrictions.

So Charles, who had lived abroad for ten years in poverty and almost hopeless misery, was escorted from Holland by a gorgeous English fleet and was received at Dover and everywhere on the road to London with extravagant welcomes. He said sarcastically that since every one had been so eager to welcome him, he had been very foolish to stay away so long.















## THE RYE-HOUSE PLOT

(Lord Russell Parts from His Wife Before His Execution)

*From the painting by Alexander Johnston, in the London National Gallery*

THE reign of Charles II is not a pleasant period for Englishmen to contemplate. The country, in a reaction from the severity of the Puritan rule, plunged into a reckless whirl of debauchery. King Charles set an example of shamelessness to a shameless court. He made no effort to exert himself politically, expressing a readiness to do anything parliament wished rather than "go on his travels again."

Charles, however, had married a Catholic princess and was always suspected of leaning toward the ancient faith. His brother and heir, James, was openly Catholic. Thus Protestant England grew more and more doubtful of its king. Hysterical rumors of impossible Catholic plots were accepted as facts, and many innocent Catholics were executed. Laws were also passed which for over a century barred Catholics from all office in England.

Finally a real plot arose on the other side. Some violent Protestants planned to free the nation from all danger by murdering both Charles and James at Rye House, where they were to visit. Charles used the discovery of this plot to accuse his most open enemies of taking part in it. So arose the celebrated treason trials of the great Whig leader Lord Russell, and the philosophical advocate of a new republic, Algernon Sidney. Both were probably innocent. Both were executed. Lord Russell's young wife moved heaven and earth to save him, but in vain.











THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF THE EMPEROR OF THE EAST

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HAPTER I. OF THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF THE EAST, AND THE BEGINNING OF THE REIGN OF HIS SON. THE EMPEROR OF THE EAST, WHOSE NAME WAS KANG-HSI, DIED IN THE TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN, AND WAS SUCCEDED BY HIS SON, WHOSE NAME WAS KANG-HSI. THE NEW EMPEROR, WHO WAS THEN BUT A BOY, WAS CROWNED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF HIS REIGN, AND HIS REIGN WAS CALLED KANG-HSI. THE NEW EMPEROR WAS A VERY WISE AND VIRTUOUS PRINCE, AND HIS REIGN WAS A VERY PROSPEROUS ONE. HE WAS A VERY GREAT PATRON OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND HIS COURT WAS A VERY GREAT CENTRE OF LEARNING. HE WAS A VERY GREAT PATRON OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND HIS COURT WAS A VERY GREAT CENTRE OF LEARNING. HE WAS A VERY GREAT PATRON OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND HIS COURT WAS A VERY GREAT CENTRE OF LEARNING.

THE HISTORY OF THE



## MONMOUTH'S REBELLION

(Monmouth Being Captured Abases Himself Before King James for Mercy)

*From the historical series by the French artist, Paul Leyendecker*

CHARLES died within two years of the execution of Russell and Sidney, and was succeeded by his Catholic brother James. A large part of the nation dreaded the rule of a Catholic king; but they feared rebellion still more. So James was permitted to mount his throne without opposition. The one man who had most to lose by this was his rival for the crown, the Duke of Monmouth. This Duke was an illegitimate son of Charles II. As he was a Protestant, many Englishmen during his father's reign had urged that parliament should pass a law ensuring the "Protestant succession" to the throne by legitimizing the Duke of Monmouth and declaring him Charles's heir. This had never been done. Instead, at the time of the Rye-house plot, Monmouth was banished to Holland. So now this disappointed Monmouth tried to start a rebellion in his own favor. He landed with a few followers in the far southwest of England and proclaimed himself king. The ignorant peasantry flocked to him as the champion of Protestantism, but the upper classes everywhere held away from him, and his little army was easily defeated at Sedgemoor (1685).

Monmouth himself was captured and brought before King James, where he appealed abjectly for his life, blaming every one but himself for everything he had done. But James had coldly decided that he would be safer with his rival dead, so Monmouth was beheaded in the Tower, being the last of England's royal claimants to perish thus.











The great Lord Bacon was proved guilty of having accepted bribes while acting as judge. Not only that, but he admitted his guilt and was sentenced by the House of Lords to pay a fine equal to \$200,000 and to undergo a long term of imprisonment. He had, however, been a most servile tool of the King, who straightway pardoned him and remitted the fine.

King James I. has received the most fulsome praise, and the demand has been lately made that he should be canonized, but he was a despicable wretch, who died from confirmed drunkenness and gluttony (1625). The Duc de Sully made the pointed remark of him that he was "the wisest fool in Christendom." The marked features of his reign were the planting of the colonies in America, which proved the germ of the present United States; his prolonged fight with the House of Commons, in which the latter showed themselves the stronger, and the steady growth of the Puritan and Independent forms of religion in the kingdom.

The wife of James I. was Anne of Denmark, and their children were Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, who died in 1612; Charles, who was his father's successor; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Frederick V., Elector Palatine of Germany. Because the revolting Bohemians chose Frederick as king, Elizabeth is remembered as the Queen of Bohemia. It must be noted that James was the first to take the title of King of Great Britain, and it was he who formed a national flag, which symbolized the patron saints of England and Scotland, St. George and St. Andrew, the combination becoming known as the "Union Jack."

Charles I. was born in November, 1600, so that he was twenty-five years old when he succeeded to the throne of Great Britain. He was an extraordinary man, who may be described as having a dual or double nature. In his private life he was conscientious, honorable, and the most courteous of gentlemen. He was what he claimed to be, irreproachable in morals and conduct, scrupulous in all of his personal relations, and a model citizen. As a sovereign, he was exactly the reverse. This may be ascribed to his fanatical belief in the divine right of kings, which he had inherited from his father, and which was intensified in the son. As the ruler of his people, he considered himself above all law; the "king could do no wrong," and Parliament, instead of being his master, should be his servant. You have met persons who insisted that others should hew close to the line, and obey to the minutest particular the tenets of religion, while they themselves lived in open violation of them and seemed to think that by some special dispensation they had the right to belie their profession, and that, too, without committing sin. Such a man was Charles I. of England, who could never be made to see that his subjects had any rights which he was bound to respect.

He opened his reign with more than one grave mistake. He had imbibed from his father the notion that an Episcopal church was most consistent with the rightful authority of kings, and he adopted severe persecuting measures against the Puritans of England and the Presbyterians of Scotland. He offended his people by marrying Marie Henrietta of France, a rigid Catholic, who greatly influenced his religious views, and he made the Duke of Buckingham, the unpopular minister of his father, his own prime minister and chief adviser.

The Queen, Henrietta, had a genius for extravagance, and kept her royal husband busy gathering the immense sums which she insisted she must have, and which he had not the courage to refuse. The only way Charles could get the funds was by a grant from Parliament, and there came a time when that body felt strong enough to deny his request, except upon his agreement to give the people certain reforms and concessions. The King angrily refused, and dissolved the body; but before long, to his chagrin, he saw there was no way of getting on without calling the members together. He did so, but, giving way to resentment, speedily dissolved them again and then found himself forced to summon them for a third time. The issue was made up between him and the lawmakers. They said: "We will give you five subsidies, but it shall be on the condition that you grant our Petition of Right." This important paper condemned his illegal practices of extorting taxes, arbitrary imprisonment, and the exercise of martial law. The King groaned in spirit, but assented (June, 1628).

Parliament had already drawn up articles of impeachment against the Duke of Buckingham for misgovernment, but when the King signed the Petition of Right, they felt that the victory warranted them in dropping proceedings. Soon after the duke was stabbed to death by one of those "cranks" who fancy that such crimes are of help to their country.

True, Charles had signed the Petition of Right, but while laboriously tracing his signature, he grimly thought: "I am doing this as *King*; therefore I shall violate it on the first opportunity. Had I signed it as a *private gentleman*, I would die before breaking my pledge, but as sovereign I am beyond reach of all moral law."

Can you figure out the distinction? He straightway revived the monopolies that public indignation compelled Elizabeth to abolish, and thus placed in the hands of his friends an oppressive means of piling up colossal fortunes, which of course they were glad to share with him. Delighted at finding a way of squeezing money from his subjects, he ruled for the next eleven years without any Parliament at all. These were eleven years of surface tranquillity, but of fast-growing, spreading, and unquenchable fire beneath.

It was during this period that the famous Dutch painter, Van Dyke, came to England, and was made much of by the King. He painted several appreciative portraits of Charles and the various members of the royal family; and the grateful monarch knighted him as Sir Anthony Van Dyke. The royal gratitude was well bestowed, for it is probable that these sympathetic and artistic portraits of all that was best in Charles, did more than anything else to rouse the feeling in many breasts of future generations, that this poetic-looking King must have been a martyred saint.

As successor of the detested minister Buckingham, Charles chose an oily traitor, Thomas Wentworth, whom he made Earl of Strafford. Strafford had been one of the signers of the Petition of Right, but the King bought him and he became a pliant tool. Another able servant was William Laud, Bishop of London, afterward Archbishop of Canterbury. Both of these rogues gave all their brains and energies to making Charles absolute, and not inappropriately termed their scheme "Thorough." Laud strove savagely to drive the Puritans, like so many cattle, into conformity with the Church, while Wentworth became president of the revived Council of the North and acted the tyrant in that region. Transferred to Ireland he was equally harsh. The High Commission and the Star Chamber courts lent their help, and their once limited authority became practically unbounded. The Star Chamber not only heavily fined those declared guilty of showing contempt for the King's authority, but often inflicted torture. All sorts of devices were resorted to for raising money. One of these was to levy "ship money," so called because it was pretended that it was for the purpose of building a fleet. John Hampden, a wealthy country gentleman of Buckinghamshire, who could have paid his tax a score of times over without feeling it, refused as a matter of principle, and his courage heartened others to do the same. On his appeal, the corrupt judges decided against him, but Hampden was raised higher than ever in the estimation of his countrymen.

The story is told that Hampden became so disgusted with the tyranny of the King, that he resolved to join the Puritans who had crossed the Atlantic to America, and that in company with his cousin, Oliver Cromwell, a farmer like himself, he went on board a vessel in the Thames, but as they were about to sail the King forbade it, and they returned to their homes. What a difference there would have been in the history of England, if King Charles had allowed those two men to leave the country!

The Scots in 1637 rebelled against the attempt to compel them to accept a liturgy like that of England. Two years later Charles marched against them, but his empty treasury and mutinous soldiers forced him to make terms; and, no choice being left to him, he called a Parliament in 1640, of which he was



so distrustful that he speedily dissolved it. Then the Scottish war broke out more fiercely than ever, and, when an army actually invaded England, he quickly summoned the law-making body once more. This is known in history as the Long Parliament, because it lasted twenty years—longer than the life of the King.

It was composed of three divisions—the Independents, the Presbyterians, and the Episcopalians. Strafford was impeached and sentenced to execution. The King passionately refused to sign the death-warrant, but yielded to Strafford's own urgency, the minister bravely offering himself as a sacrifice in order to soothe the dangerously excited people. Then Laud was accused of attempting to overthrow the Protestant religion. Both were sent to prison and afterward executed. The Star Chamber and the High Commission Court were abolished, a bill was passed requiring Parliament to be summoned once every three years, and a law enacted forbidding the dissolution of the Parliament then in session without its own consent. The Grand Remonstrance, which set forth all the shortcomings of the King's government, was printed and circulated throughout the country, and added much to the distrust already felt for the King.

Charles was now at bay, and, urged on by his French Queen, did the most foolish thing conceivable. His leading opponents in Parliament were Hampden, Pym, and three others. He determined to arrest them. With an armed force he went to Parliament to drag them from their seats, but when he looked around for them their places were empty. They had received warning, and, slipping out of a side door, were safely sheltered by friends in the city. Charles angrily turned to the speaker and demanded where they were. That officer made obeisance, and, begging the King's pardon, replied he could neither see nor speak except by order of the house.

Baffled and furious, the King determined to make Parliament bend to his will through the use of military force. It must not be supposed that he did not have a large number of friends, and his confidence in his strength would seem to have been warranted. While England had no standing army, every county had a large body of militia, which was legally under the control of the King, and Parliament now insisted that he should resign that control into its hands. He refused, flung his standard to the breeze at Nottingham, August 22, 1642, and the civil war began.

In this lamentable strife the opponents were Royalists and Parliamentarians, or more popularly Cavaliers and Roundheads, the latter name being applied to the Puritans, who, to show their contempt of the prevailing fashion of long hair, wore their own cropped short. They were commanded by an able officer in Robert, Earl of Essex, a son of the favorite whom Elizabeth had caused to be executed. He met the Royalists at Edgehill, in Warwickshire, on the

23d of October, and fought an indecisive battle. The commander of the Cavaliers was Prince Rupert, son of the Queen of Bohemia, and nephew of the King, a brave, dashing officer, whose practice of looting caused many to look upon his acts with disfavor. The King was well provided with gentleman cavalry, whose horses were much superior to those of the raw levies of the Parliamentarians; but he had insufficient artillery and ammunition. The Queen, who had withdrawn to Holland, sold her own and the crown jewels, and bought considerable ammunition, which she sent to him. She herself returned to England in February, 1643, with four ships, and landed at Bridlington, where the house in which she lodged was bombarded so hotly that she had to run outside and take refuge in a ditch. A few months later the gallant patriot, Hampden, was killed in a skirmish with Prince Rupert.

In this civil war, it may be said that the western half of England stood by the King, while the eastern half with London opposed him. Both sides bent all their energies to the prosecution of the struggle. The Cavaliers melted their silver plate to obtain money for the troops. Parliament, for the people, imposed heavy taxes and for the first time levied a duty on ales, liquors, and domestic products. Every Puritan household was ordered to fast one day in each week and to give the price of a dinner to the support of the cause. An important measure passed was styled the Self-denying Ordinance, which made all officers holding civil or military office resign, the real purpose of the law being to weed out the incompetent leaders, that their places might be filled by abler and more aggressive men.

Parliament now formed an alliance with the Scots, who, in 1644, sent an army, while Charles made a treaty of peace with the Catholics in Ireland, so as to allow him to bring troops from that country. He then summoned those of the Peers and Commons who were loyal to him to meet in Parliament at Oxford, and they thence directed his cause. It failed because of the transcendent ability of one man.

Oliver Cromwell was born at Huntingdon in 1599, his father being a substantial country gentleman. Little is known of his boyhood, but he left college in 1616 to take the management of the estate of his father, who had died. In 1620, he married the daughter of Sir James Bouchier, thus proving his social position to have been above what his enemies described it. He associated himself with the Puritan party, who respected his earnestness and sagacity. He made his first appearance in Parliament in 1628, but had hardly taken his seat when he and his fellow-commoners were hustled home again by the King. Cromwell devoted the next eleven years to farming, but was sent to Parliament in 1640 as a member for the town of Cambridge. A description of his appearance at that time says: "He was dressed in a plain cloth suit, which seemed to

have been made by an ill country tailor; his linen was plain, and not very clean; and I remember a speck or two of blood upon his little band, which was not much larger than his collar. His hat was without a hat-band; his stature was of good size; his sword stuck close to his side; his countenance swollen and reddish; his voice sharp and untunable, and his eloquence full of fervor."

In July, 1642, Cromwell moved in Parliament for permission to raise two companies of volunteers, having first supplied the necessary arms at his own cost. A month later he seized the magazine at Cambridgeshire and prevented the Royalists from carrying off the valuable plate in the university. Now that the opportunity came, Cromwell exhibited astonishing military genius. The troop of cavalry that he formed, his "Ironsides," resisted the battle shock of the fiery Rupert, who hurled his gallant cavaliers in vain against them. As lieutenant-colonel on the bloody field of Marston (July 2, 1644), and in the second battle of Newbury, three months later, Cromwell displayed admirable bravery and skill, but the backwardness of his superiors prevented their reaping the full fruits of victory. Cromwell complained in Parliament, and declared that unless greater vigor was shown a dishonorable peace would be forced upon them. He had already so demonstrated his ability that he was excepted from the provision of the "Self-denying Ordinance." In the new model army which was formed, Lord Fairfax, one of the few noblemen on the Puritan side, was appointed general, with Cromwell as lieutenant-general of the horse. At Naseby (June, 1645) Cromwell commanded the right wing of the Parliamentary forces, and the royal army was utterly routed and ruined. After the disorderly flight, the papers of the King were picked up on the battle-field, and proved him more perfidious than even his enemies had suspected. These papers revealed that he meant to betray those who were negotiating with him for peace, and was arranging to bring foreign troops to England.

Naseby practically ended the first civil war. The Royalists in the west were soon brought under submission. Bristol was carried by storm, and everywhere the cause of the King rapidly crumbled. In May, 1646, he escaped from Oxford in disguise, and finally, in his extremity, surrendered to the Scotch army, which delivered him to the English Parliament. After remaining a state prisoner for more than four months, he was carried off by a cornet of Fairfax's guard to the army, chiefly Independents, so set against Presbyterianism that it now became the rival of Parliament. Charles thought he could use one party against the other, and began negotiating with each, intending to betray both. The soldiers became so threatening that, believing his life in danger, he escaped from Hampton Court, and, in his bewilderment, flung himself into the custody of Colonel Hammond, governor of the Isle of Wight, who confined him in a castle, from which he tried in vain to escape.



At this time the country was in a critical condition. The Welsh were in revolt; a hostile Scotch army, made up of Presbyterians and Royalists, was bearing down from the north, and Rupert, to whom seventeen English ships had deserted, was preparing for a descent from Holland, while Ireland was rampant in its royalism. The promptest and most energetic measures were necessary to save the country, and Cromwell was the man to take them. The Welsh were forced to surrender, and Cromwell routed the Scots at Preston Moor.

The Presbyterian element dominated in Parliament, and the Independent in the army. They were jealous of each other's power, but Cromwell, with his usual sagacity, had the King removed from the commissioners' hands into those of the army, in June, 1647. Then some of the leading Presbyterians were turned out of Parliament by the army, and the Independents with Cromwell gradually gained the ascendancy.

Two years were spent in fruitless negotiations, when Charles, who was still a prisoner on the Isle of Wight, made a treaty with the Scots, in which he promised to establish the Presbyterian church in England if they would send an army to replace him on the throne. It seems strange that at that late day any one was foolish enough to place reliance upon the most solemn pledge of the King. The advance of the Scots into England and the flocking of the Royalists to their aid caused the civil war to break out again. On the return of the victorious Parliamentary army to London the Presbyterians were still temporizing with the king. In December, 1648, Colonel Pride drove more than one hundred of the Presbyterian members out of Parliament, the process being known in history as "Pride's Purge." Cromwell did not order this summary proceeding, but approved of it. Some sixty Independents were left, and the body was derisively called the Rump Parliament.

Cromwell saw that one step remained to be taken in order to bring peace to the distracted country. It was a fearful one, but he did not hesitate to take it.

The Rump Parliament voted that the King should be brought to trial on the charge of treason against the government. The Lords refused to agree, whereupon the Commons declared that the supreme authority rested in them, and closed the House of Lords. A High Court of Justice was organized for the trial of the King, Cromwell, of course, being a member of it. On the 20th of January, 1649, the King was brought before this court. He bore himself with a dignity that compelled the respect of his enemies, and there were not lacking many expressions of sympathy for him. A week later he was found guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced upon him as a "tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy to the good people of the nation." He calmly accepted his fate, bade farewell to his children, and was beheaded on the scaffold before Whitehall, on January 30, 1649.





CROMWELL CLOSING THE RUMP PARLIAMENT

## Chapter CXI

### CROMWELL AND THE COMMONWEALTH.



**T**HUS, in 1649, England ceased to be a kingdom and took the name of a "Commonwealth." Before the multitude which stared with mingled awe, exultation, and pity upon the beheading of Charles I. had separated, the House of Commons declared that no person should be proclaimed King of England, or Ireland, or the dominions thereof. Within two months the House of Lords was abolished, not only as an incumbrance, but as a dangerous menace to the nation. England claimed to be a republic, governed by a Council of State, with John Bradshaw as president and the famous poet, John Milton, the foreign secretary. Fairfax and Cromwell commanded the army, but the centre, front, head, and heart of the Commonwealth was the grim, relentless, iron-willed Cromwell.

The young republic, like our own, was pestered by anarchists, who contended that all offices should be done away with and rank and property placed on an equality. These people called themselves "Levelers," and broke out in a vicious mutiny, which Cromwell crushed, as he would have stamped the life out of a venomous serpent coiling at his feet.

Fairfax soon resigned, and Cromwell became the head of the military forces of his country. The new government must have collapsed in a few weeks but for his amazing energy and ability. Even he found a herculean task on his hands. The Royalists were numerous and daring, and the Presbyterians detested the army and the Rump Parliament, from which they had been excluded.

The dead King left six children—Charles, Prince of Wales, born in 1630; James, Duke of York, born three years later; Henry, who died young; and three daughters—Mary, Elizabeth, and Henrietta. Mary married Prince William of Nassau, Stadholder of Holland. It is remarkable that both of the older sons afterward became kings of England, as also did the son of Mary. The daughter Elizabeth died in 1650, a prisoner held by the Parliamentarians, in Carisbrooke Castle. The daughter Henrietta Maria, born in 1644, married the French prince, Philip, Duke of Orleans.

The Royalists in Ireland proclaimed Prince Charles, King, and Cromwell went thither to quell the uprising. He made a cyclone campaign, his fanatical soldiers showing no more mercy than so many Apaches, and in the space of nine months he had so nearly crushed the revolt that he left his son-in-law, Ireton, to finish the work, while he passed over to Scotland to stamp out the rebellion there. Young Charles had reached that country and been received as King, but Cromwell attacked the Scots at Dunbar, September 3, 1650, and routed them "horse, foot, and dragoons." While the great general was still engaged in subduing Scotland, Charles led his army across the border and pressed on as far as Worcester, where Cromwell overtook and defeated him on the anniversary of the victory at Dunbar. Charles made his escape, but three of his leading supporters were executed, Parliament having declared all his adherents rebels and traitors.

Cromwell yearned to get hold of Charles, and offered a reward of a thousand pounds for his capture. It seemed impossible for the prince to save himself, and he never could have done so but for the aid of devoted friends. He entrusted his life at different times to scores of persons, not one of whom betrayed him. Once with his hair cropped close, and dressed as a peasant, he lay in Boscobel wood; and again, hidden by the thick branches of a huge oak, he peeped through the leaves and saw the Parliament soldiers hunting here and there and passing under the tree, without once suspecting that the prize they sought was crouching only a few feet above their heads. His friends could not have been tempted to betray him by the offer of the kingdom itself.

When he had tramped until he was footsore, he was lifted upon the horse of a miller and helped on his way. Not daring to remain long at the house of the friend to whom he was taken, he left in the disguise of a servant to a gentlewoman, who rode behind him on a pillion, as was the fashion. He and his friend, Lord Wilmot, sailed in a collier from the small fishing-town of Brighton. The master recognized him, but willingly risked his own life. After passing many more dangers the prince landed in Normandy, where even the powerful arm of Cromwell was not long enough to reach him. Meanwhile the war in

Scotland was brought to a successful conclusion by General George Monk, one of Cromwell's officers.

It was at this time that John Milton, the famous poet who wrote "Paradise Lost," was made secretary of Cromwell's Council of State. He became the defender of the Puritan cause with the pen, as the Protector was with the sword. These two great men were possibly personal friends before either had achieved fame, and we can imagine them visiting each other as simple country gentlemen. At any rate, they seem to have understood each other from the start, and there was never any jar in their political relations.

War broke out with Holland in 1652, and was noted for the resolute strife between the great Dutch sailors, Martin Tromp and Michael de Ruyter, on one hand and Admiral Robert Blake on the other. Tromp, having defeated Blake, sailed through the Channel with a broom at his masthead, as an intimation of the manner in which he had swept the seas of the British. But Blake had his revenge. Tromp was slain in a naval battle in 1653, and peace was made with dejected Holland the following year.

Cromwell had urged the need of calling a Parliament which should represent the country and provide the necessary reforms. Some of the members were distrustful of him, suspecting that he wished to place the crown on his own head. When, in 1653, a bill came up for calling a new Parliament of four hundred members, it declared that the present members should retain their seats, with the right to reject such newly elected members as they saw fit. Cromwell believed this was a device of the Rump Parliament to retain power, while that body was equally suspicious of him.

The leading member of the House was young Sir Harry Vane, who had made an excellent governor of the colony of Massachusetts. Feeling that there was imminent danger of the country falling into the power of Cromwell as military dictator, Vane urged with all the earnestness in his power, that the bill should be passed without delay. Cromwell never hesitated in such crises. With a squad of soldiers he strode to the building and, leaving them at the door, entered the House and sat down to watch what was being done. He could not restrain himself long, and, springing to his feet, charged the Commons with misgovernment and the abuse of their power. As he talked, his anger rose, until exclaiming, "You are no Parliament!" he called in his soldiers, had them pull the presiding officer from his seat and tumble him out of doors. The other members scrambled after, amid the dictator's vigorous epithets. When all were gone, Cromwell locked the door, thrust the key into his pocket, and went home, feeling, perhaps, that he had performed only his simple duty.

The old Parliament out of the way, Cromwell called a new one to his own liking. It had one hundred and thirty-nine members, and was nicknamed the



"Barebones Parliament," because one of its members bore the curious name of Praise-God Barebones. It was ridiculed from the first; but it cannot be denied that it did a good work, and that some of the laws originated by it proved very helpful to the country.

A constitution was presented by a council which, on December 16, 1653, made Cromwell Lord Protector of England, Ireland, and Scotland. A few years later a second constitution offered him the crown. Tradition represents him as desiring to take it, but being withheld by the entreaties of his favorite daughter, Elizabeth Claypole. A more reasonable argument lay in the fact that the army was unlikely to sustain him in such a step. At any rate, Cromwell refused the crown of England. He tried, however, to restore the House of Lords, failing only because the members would not attend. Most of the old forms of the constitution were revived, though they were veiled under other names. Since Ireland and Scotland were at this period added to the English Commonwealth, the representatives of those two countries took seats in the English Parliament, but an army of ten thousand men under General Monk was required to hold the Scots in subjection.

You know that the tyranny of the Stuart kings had sent hundreds of Puritans to Massachusetts and other New England colonies. There was now a reversal of these conditions, and many of the Royalists fled to Virginia, where they founded one of the greatest States of the American Union. It seems singular that these roystering Cavaliers, with their horse-racing, cock-fighting, gambling, and convivial dispositions, should have laid the foundation of a State which until long after the Revolution was the leading member of our Union, and which furnished so many rulers for the nation that it was given the name of the "Mother of Presidents." Such, however, was the fact. From these settlers descended the illustrious George Washington, Patrick Henry, the Lees, and the Randolphs.

Virginia remained true to the King all through the troublous times of the Commonwealth. When Charles I. was beheaded, the Virginians recognized his exiled son as the rightful sovereign, and were the last subjects to submit to the Commonwealth. Cromwell showed both generosity and sagacity in dealing with these rebels across the ocean. In 1652 he sent a strong fleet to Virginia, but at the same time offered such liberal concessions for a simple declaration of allegiance, that the colony reluctantly accepted him as its overlord. When Charles II. came to the throne, he expressed his gratitude for the loyalty of the colony by ordering the arms of the province to be quartered with those of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as an independent member of the kingdom. That is why Virginia is often called the "Old Dominion."

Cromwell was the Commonwealth; for without his tremendous, dominating



personality, the fabric would have collapsed like a house of cards. He had to use the sternest measures to maintain peace at home; but he was neither an oppressor nor a bigot. He was tolerant toward all sects so long as they did not plot against the government. In him the Quakers, who were cruelly persecuted in America as well as in England, found a friend; he helped to send the first Protestant missionaries to this country for the conversion of the Indians; and under him the Jews, who had been excluded for centuries from the kingdom of England, were allowed to return and build a synagogue in London.

Many of his followers, however, were merciless toward the Catholics and Churchmen. You can see to-day in some of the cathedrals and parish churches empty niches from which the image of the Virgin or some saint once beamed, tombs shattered and desecrated because they contained some expression of the old faith,—all mute witnesses of the brutal ferocity of men who were able to make themselves believe they pleased God by such sacrilege.

It is wonderful that a man who never turned his attention to war until he was forty years old should have developed so astounding a genius in that direction. The success of Cromwell's foreign policy was amazing, and to him is due the chief glory of England's advance to one of the foremost powers of Europe. He built the navy of which the kingdom hitherto had only dreamed, and, under the mighty Blake, her fleets smote the Dutch, until they took down the brooms from their mastheads and promised forever after to salute the English flag wherever met on the high seas. It was Blake who compelled the Duke of Tuscany to pay for injuries to England's commerce, and who scourged the pirates of Barbary till they cowered before him. The West Indian possessions of Spain were hammered into submission in 1655, and Jamaica has ever since remained the property of Great Britain. Two years later, in the face of a terrific fire from the shore batteries, Blake destroyed the Spanish treasure-ships in the harbor of Santa Cruz, in Teneriffe. Having won one of the most illustrious names in naval annals, the grim old veteran lay down and died off Plymouth in the summer of 1657. The following year the allied English and French forces captured Dunkirk from the Spaniards, and the French King, by way of thanks, presented the city to the English, who thus received a consolation for the century-old loss of Calais.

No man can long withstand the prodigious strain to which Cromwell was subjected for ten years. The great Elizabeth succumbed, and her last days were clouded with gloom and despair; Bonaparte broke down when he ought to have been in the prime of his marvellous genius; and the iron frame of Cromwell, which ordinarily would have lasted for yet a score or more of years, was also destined to give way. This man who had been so absolutely fearless in battle

grew so afraid of secret assassination that he wore armor concealed under his clothing. Then came the finishing blow to his strength in the death of his beloved daughter Elizabeth. It is a curious coincidence that the stormy night on which Cromwell passed away—September 3d, 1658—was the anniversary of his two victories at Dunbar and Worcester.

How seldom a great genius is succeeded by one worthy of wearing his laurels! Cromwell left two sons, Richard and Henry, the elder of whom was proclaimed Protector. He had not a spark of the ability of his father, being negative and spiritless, when the need of a strong, directing hand was as great as during the stormiest times of the Commonwealth. He took his place with the contempt of the army, who could respect no one that had never shown valor on the battlefield. The dissatisfaction with him so deepened that the old Rump Parliament was called together at the end of eight months, and demanded his resignation. As gently as a lamb he stepped down and withdrew to private life, whither he was followed by his brother, who had shown considerable capacity in governing Ireland during the Protectorate. Richard was nicknamed "Tumble-down Dick," and caricatures of him were displayed in many public places. He was given a pension, and lived in strict privacy until his death, in 1712, in his eighty-seventh year.

It is said that years after his demission he visited Westminster, and under the guidance of an attendant, who did not recognize him, was shown the throne. He looked at it quizzically for a moment or two, and then remarked: "It is the first time I have seen that since I sat on it, in 1659."

Under Richard Cromwell the Commonwealth existed only in name. The country was placed under the control of the Rump Parliament, which represented only itself. The quarrel between it and the army was immediately renewed, and before long the body was expelled by the military leader, General John Lambert, who hoped to travel in the footsteps of the great Cromwell. General Monk, commander of the English army in Scotland, however, refused to recognize the government thus set up, and advanced with his forces toward England and made his headquarters at Coldstream-on-the-Tweed. It is in memory of this fact that one of the regiments composing his vanguard is still known as the Coldstream Guards.

The people on hearing the news rose against the government, and the fleet, sailing up the Thames, at the same time declared for the Parliament. General Lambert, who had expected to play the rôle of the great Cromwell, moved to the north to check Monk, but his soldiers fell away from him, and the triumphant Monk entered London in February, 1660. He was a grim, silent man, who kept his own counsels, and for several days he gave no sign of his intentions. Then he declared in favor of a free Parliament. The announcement was

received with the blazing of bonfires, the ringing of bells, and the joyful shouts of the people. The Presbyterian members, who had been driven out by the "purging" of Pride, hurried back to their seats again, and, after issuing writs for a general election, dissolved March 16th. Thus passed away the notable "Long Parliament," which had been in existence for twenty years.

The new assembly was termed a Convention Parliament, because it was called without royal authority. It met about a month later, including ten members of the House of Lords. Meanwhile Monk had been in communication with the exiled Charles, who issued a declaration of pardon to all for past offences, "excepting only such persons as shall hereafter be excepted by Parliament." One week after this declaration was received, May 8th, Charles II. was proclaimed King, and the fleet which had been sent to convey him from Holland to Dover arrived at London, May 29th, amid every demonstration of joy. Bells clanged, bonfires flashed all the way to London, flags waved, and the frenzied people shouted themselves hoarse. There was sarcastic point in the remark of the King, that it must be his own fault he had not come before, since every one seemed to be so glad to see him.

A striking feature of his triumphal journey to London was the Commonwealth army drawn up at Blackheath to give him welcome. The soldiers were silent, but sullen, for it was a bitter sight to them. The Puritans were equally sour, for they looked upon the funeral of their fondest hopes; but there was no help for it. The Commonwealth had perished because of the quarrels of its friends.

The Puritans were devoutly religious, yet bigoted to the last degree, and they committed the fatal mistake of insisting that other people should accept their pattern of religion. They were lacking in all the elements of sweet charity, and frowned upon the most innocent amusements. The Long Parliament ordered that Christmas should be kept as a fast day, and the most trifling breaches of morality were punished with rigorous severity. It was this spirit that was carried across the ocean and led a governor in Massachusetts to reprove a party of little children for dancing round a May-pole; that caused the persecution of Roger Williams and the Quakers, and that carried out that frightful tragedy, the Salem witchcraft.



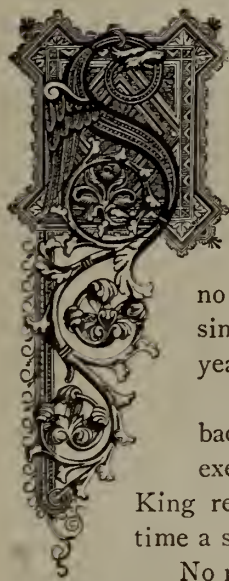




THE TRIAL OF LORD RUSSELL

## Chapter CXII

### THE RESTORATION AND SECOND EXPULSION OF THE STUARTS



SOME of those English kings were made of poor stuff, and Charles II. was among the worst. His years of exile and struggle had apparently disheartened him and left him with no ambition except that of obtaining all the enjoyment possible out of the remainder of his life. His whole love being centred in himself, he had none left for his country. He had no conception of such a thing as duty, no respect for any man or woman, and wanted to be King simply because it gave him unlimited means of gratifying every yearning of his vicious nature.

By a pleasant fiction the beginning of his reign was dated back twelve years before, that is, from the day of his father's execution. The Commonwealth troops were disbanded, but the King retained a select guard of five thousand men, from which in time a standing army grew.

No reign could have begun under more promising prospects than that of Charles II. He was heartily welcomed by the great majority of his people. He had talents, a pleasing temper, and a courteous manner, but he was utterly lacking in moral principle. He secretly favored the Catholic religion, but it was as a matter of policy, for he would accept no faith that put the least restraint upon his shameless life. In short, the times that were ushered in by his reign were a complete and absolute reaction from the rigid morality of the Puritan rule. Immorality reigned everywhere.

The new Parliament passed an Act of Indemnity, granting a general pardon, but excepting from its benefits the judges who had condemned Charles I. to death. Some of these were imprisoned for life, and thirteen were executed; but most of the others had already fled from the country. Among the fugitives were William Goffe, Edward Whalley, and Colonel John Dixwell, who found refuge in the New England colonies, though frequent search was made for them. One of the silliest revenges conceivable was the digging up of the bodies of Cromwell, Ireton, Bradshaw, and Pride on the anniversary of the late King's death and hanging them in chains at Tyburn, after which they were buried at the foot of the gallows among the remains of highway robbers and the lowest of criminals. The Episcopal form of service was restored, and in the course of the following few years harsh laws were passed against the Non-conformists, or Dissenters. These included the Presbyterians, Independents or Congregationalists, Baptists, and the Society of Friends, or Quakers. It was in 1662 that the Act of Uniformity was passed. This ordered every clergyman who did not assent and consent to everything in the prayer-book, and who did not use it in his Sunday services, to surrender his church. It meant that he must leave his home and go out in the world, to seek in the best way he could a living for himself, his wife, and children. On August 24th of that year two thousand clergymen abandoned their homes, among them being preachers of the great towns, as well as the poor, hard-working country parsons.

They were martyrs for conscience' sake, and continued to preach on the hill-sides or seashore, or wherever listeners could be found. The King, the bishops, and the Cavalier Parliament, angered by what they looked upon as contumacy, passed yet severer laws against the Dissenters. The "Conventicle Act" forbade them to worship anywhere except in the parish churches. Such oppressive commands can seldom be enforced. Little companies continued to meet in barns, in out-of-the-way places, in caves, glens, and the recesses of the sombre woods. Sentinels were kept on watch, and generally managed to give notice of the approach of guards and constables, who, when they could, seized the Dissenters and hustled them off to prison. During the reign of Charles II. eight thousand Dissenters died in the jails, which were filthy, crowded breeding-places of disease. The Scottish Parliament, which Bishop Burnet said was "mostly drunk," was as merciless as the English in persecuting the Dissenters, for Scotland had again become a separate kingdom. The tangle in Ireland was settled by Cromwell's colonists giving up a third of their gains; but many Irish claimants protested that, though they had no share in the rebellion of 1641, they could not obtain restitution nor pay for their losses.

Among those who suffered religious persecution was a man who had learned the trade of a tinker. He had been rough and wild, but was converted, and, in

1655, became a member of the Baptist congregation at Bedford. Soon after, he was chosen its pastor. He was highly popular, and crowds flocked to hear him preach. The act against conventicles stopped his labors, and he was convicted and sentenced to perpetual banishment. In the mean time, he was sent to Bedford jail, where he supported his wife and children by making tagged laces. It was there he "dreamed a dream," which took form as "Pilgrim's Progress," and is one of the most remarkable religious books ever written. John Bunyan, the author, was finally released, and resumed his work as a preacher, wandering through the country. After the issuing of James II.'s declaration for liberty of conscience, Bunyan again settled at Bedford and ministered to the Baptist congregation in Mill-lane till his death at London of fever, in 1688. No book except the Bible has gone through so many editions as "Pilgrim's Progress."

In 1667, three years before the publication of this work, John Milton, pardoned for his part in the Commonwealth, but living in obscure poverty, gave his "Paradise Lost" to the world. This grand epic was as sublime in treatment as in conception, and will always hold a lofty position in the world's literature. Its theme, like that of "Pilgrim's Progress," was the momentous problem of sin and redemption.

One of the shameful acts of Charles II. was the seizure of New Amsterdam—the present city of New York—in 1664. The infamy of the proceeding lay in the fact that England and Holland were at peace, and the former in a treaty had recognized the justice of Holland's claim to the territory through the discovery of Henry Hudson.

The marriage of the King in 1662 to the Infanta of Portugal, Catharine of Braganza, brought him the fortress of Tangier in Africa and the island of Bombay in India. The latter was soon made over to the East India Company, and Tangier was abandoned as worthless. In the year mentioned Charles, in order to procure funds with which to keep up his debauchery, sold Dunkirk to the King of France, much to the displeasure of England.

Naturally King Charles surrounded himself with men like himself. They were his rivals in debauchery, and were fond of perpetrating coarse jests upon one another. One of them, the Earl of Rochester, wrote on the door of the King's bed-chamber these lines:

"Here lies our sovereign lord, the King,  
Whose word no man relies on;  
He never says a foolish thing,  
Nor ever does a wise one."

There was wit in the King's retort when he read the squib. "It is true, for, while my words are my own, my acts are my ministers'."



While the reign had begun with the Earl of Clarendon as chief minister, authority soon sank into the hands of a disreputable administration, called the *Cabal*, the members of which were a dissipated party of scamps who cared for nothing but their own interests. Curiously enough the word *cabal* has come down to modern times because it was spelled by the initial letters of the five members composing this cabinet, as it would be termed in these days—thus: (C)lifford, (A)shley-Cooper Lord Shaftesbury, (B)uckingham, (A)rlington, and (L)auderdale.

Meanwhile an even greater disaster fell upon the unhappy land. The filth in most of those early English homes was unspeakable. Sometimes when a family could stand it no longer, instead of cleaning up, they moved out and left the building alone to "sweeten" itself. London was a city of alleys and narrow streets, crowded with tumble-down buildings, veneered with the dirt of centuries, and permeated by an atmosphere of poison. The summer of 1665 was one of the hottest ever known, and need you be told what followed?

An appalling plague broke out and ran riot in the city. To call it a visitation of God, as many did, seems almost blasphemy, for in truth the plague was only a tardy acceptance of the invitation which the inhabitants had been holding out for years. If cleanliness is next to godliness, then the London of 1665 was very far away from it. The pestilence carried off a hundred thousand people within a few months. Thousands of terror-stricken people ran out into the country and huddled along the highways. The rumble of the death carts was never still. You might have picked your way for block after block and seen on nearly every door a cross made with red chalk and the lines scrawled beneath, "Lord have mercy on us."

Then when exhausted London was reeling under this stroke, a fire fortunately broke out and burned up all the city except a fringe of houses on the northeast. Overwhelming as the calamity seemed, in no other way could the horrible pestilence have been driven out and the air purified so that one could inhale it without having his lungs poisoned. The spot where the flames first burst out is still marked by a monument near London Bridge. The city was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, the greatest architect of the period. He replaced the wooden buildings with those of brick and stone. The present cathedral of St. Paul was reared on the foundations of the old structure. Under the grand dome of this, his most magnificent work, the ashes of the famous master-builder are laid. On a tablet near the tomb is this inscription in Latin: "Reader, if you seek his monument, look around."

London had hardly been rebuilt when Holland, which was at war with England on account of a rivalry in trade, sent a fleet up the Medway. Charles

had been granted a large sum of money by Parliament with which to build a navy, whereupon he and his associates promptly squandered it in profligacy. The few ships he had were ready to fall to pieces, while their crews were on the verge of mutiny, because they had not been paid for months. On board the Dutch fleet were many English sailors who had deserted in disgust, hoping thereby to bring their sovereign to a sense of his duty. After burning several partially built men-of-war at Chatham, the invaders made their own terms of peace.

Charles had shown himself as ambitious as his father to rule without a Parliament, but he must have money. How to get it without the help of Parliament was the great problem of his reign. He found out a way at last, and though none could have been more shameful, he eagerly used it. Louis XIV. of France, the greatest monarch in Europe, was anxious to conquer Holland, that he might add it to his own kingdom and extend the power of Romanism. He made the secret treaty of Dover with Charles (May 22, 1670), by which the latter, for the price of £300,000, was to aid him in carrying out this scheme for destroying the liberty and Protestant faith of Holland. It was agreed still further that this degraded English King was to receive a pension of £200,000 a year, to date from the time he should publicly declare himself a Catholic.

Since his pay depended upon his carrying out the bargain, Charles set to work to earn the money. He brought on a war with the Dutch, but quickly found he must have more funds with which to carry it through. There was then lying in the Government treasury a sum equal to \$10,000,000 in these days, which was pledged to repay the leading merchants and bankers who had made loans to the Government. The King deliberately stole this enormous sum and used most of it in pandering to his vices. A financial panic resulted, which ruined some of the oldest firms in London.

Charles' declaration of war against Holland in 1672 earned him the first bribe promised by the King of France, and he was hungry for the second, but was too cautious to come out openly as a Catholic. The nearest he dared go was to issue a proclamation of indulgence to all religions, and under this he may have intended to bestow special favors on the Catholics. Parliament replied, however, by requiring every government officer to declare himself a Protestant. This compelled the Duke of York, the next heir to the throne, to resign as Lord High Admiral, for he was a Catholic and not such a coward as to be ashamed of his religious belief.

Charles was frightened by the vigor of Parliament, and tried to wheedle it into granting him more money by marrying his niece, the Princess Mary, to William of Orange, head of the Dutch republic and the foremost Protestant on

the Continent. Thus peace was once more made with Holland only two years after the declaration of war.

The King was in the midst of his treacherous scheming when a vile wretch, Titus Oates, startled everybody by declaring that he had unearthed a horrifying plot among the Catholics, who were preparing to burn London, slaughter all the inhabitants, kill the King, and restore their religion. The people became frenzied with terror. Numbers of innocent persons were flung into prison; many of them were executed. Despite the hideous character of Oates, he was generally believed, and he swore away lives through a morbid craving for notoriety. There seems to have been not the slightest foundation for all his horrible charges, and the craze soon abated.

The Royal Society for the Discussion of Scientific Questions was organized during the reign of Charles II. The most amazing superstition prevailed among the educated as well as the lower classes, and there was need of some one to brush away the mists that seemed to veil all eyes. Sir Isaac Newton, one of the most remarkable mathematicians that ever lived, was born in Lincolnshire in 1642, and received the best education the times could afford. It is said that in 1665, while sitting in his garden at Woolsthorpe, the fall of an apple suggested to him the most magnificent of all his discoveries—the law of universal gravitation. He was elected a member of the Royal Society in 1671, and through many ingenious experiments brought his great discovery to perfection, unfolding it in his famous work, entitled "*Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*." He was president of the Royal Society from 1703 till his death, twenty-four years later, being re-elected each year. The discovery named and many others have given Newton an illustrious rank among the greatest scientists of any age.

The Magna Charta had declared that no freeman should suffer arbitrary imprisonment, but many ways were found of breaking the law. So, in 1679, Parliament passed the famous Habeas Corpus Act, which declared that no man should be detained long in prison on a criminal charge without being brought before a judge, who should inquire into the legality of the imprisonment and arrange for a speedy trial. This merciful and just provision is one of the most precious rights guaranteed in our own country and in other leading civilized nations. It can be overridden only under stress of great public peril.

It was at this time that the two political parties came to be known by the respective names of Whig and Tory, which still prevail, though, of course, the meaning of the terms has undergone many shadings and changes. The first Whigs were the Scotch Puritans or Covenanters who rejected the Episcopacy which Charles I. tried to force upon them. The word was a term of reproach, as was that of Tory when applied to the Roman Catholic outlaws of Ireland.



The name Tory was now given to those who supported the claim of the Duke of York as the successor of the King. This Duke, as you remember, was James, the brother of Charles, and he was of the Roman Catholic faith. The Whigs were those radical Protestants who endeavored to shut him out from the accession. The excitement ran so high that the country touched on the verge of civil war. Charles vented his exasperation against the Whigs by revoking the charters of London and some other cities and granting them again on terms pleasing only to the Tories.

What undoubtedly prevented an outbreak was the discovery of the "Rye-House Plot." This was formed by a number of desperate Whigs, and its object was the assassination of the King and his brother at a place called the Rye House, not far from London. The purpose was to place the highly popular Duke of Monmouth on the throne. He was the illegitimate son of the King, who had no legitimate descendants. The plot was betrayed and thus brought to naught. The leading advocates of the bill for excluding James from the succession had been Algernon Sidney, Lord Russell, and the Earl of Essex. Probably none of them had any real connection with the Rye-House Plot; but the opportunity seemed too good to lose, and they with others were arrested for the conspiracy. Sidney and Russell, who were clearly innocent, were tried, condemned, and executed. Russell's trial attracted special attention because of his high rank and character and the devotion of his wife, who acted as his secretary throughout the trial, comforted him in prison, took the last sacrament in his company, and escorted him to the block. The Earl of Essex, to avoid the fate of his comrades, committed suicide while imprisoned in the Tower. The Duke of Monmouth was banished to Holland.

Soon after the exposure of the Rye-House Plot the Duke of York resumed his office of High Admiral. While considering his future policy, Charles was seized with a fit, and, after lingering several days, died February 6, 1685. He refused the urgency of the bishops to take the sacrament, and, his brother having quietly brought a monk into the chamber, he received the last rites and died a Catholic.

The Duke of York now came to the throne as James II. While his accession was dreaded because of his religious faith, yet general confidence was felt in him because of his courage and honesty, and when he declared he would respect the laws and defend the Church of England, few doubted him. Still, one of the dearest wishes of his heart was to restore the Roman Catholic religion in England. The Protestants were indignant when, on the Easter Sunday preceding his coronation, he went to mass in royal state, and many viewed with deep misgiving the change in affairs.

A commendable act of James was that of bringing the execrable wretch,

Titus Oates, to punishment for his incredible perjuries concerning the "Popish Plot." He was publicly whipped through the streets of London to the point of exhaustion and within a hair's breadth of his life.

You remember that the Duke of Monmouth went to Holland upon the collapse of the Rye-House Plot. Four months after the accession of James he was led to believe by a number of refugees that if he would return to England and claim the throne as a Protestant he would be welcomed with open arms. Landing at Lyme on the coast of Dorsetshire, he issued a proclamation denouncing James as a usurper, tyrant, and murderer, because, like Nero, he had applied the torch to London, cut the throat of Essex, and poisoned his brother, Charles II. ! It was so preposterous a charge that it caused ridicule even among the friends of the Duke. Many of the Whig nobles, whose help was necessary, refused to have anything to do with him or his cause.

On the 6th of July, 1685, at Sedgemoor, "King Monmouth" was routed, and two days later, half starved and terrified out of his wits, he was captured while crouching in a ditch. He prayed his captors to take him into the presence of the King. They did so, and he flung himself on the ground at his royal uncle's feet, weeping and begging for life, no matter how hard the terms. Never was a more abject coward seen. He denied having issued the abominable proclamation against James ; declared he had been forced into the rebellion against his will, and expressed himself ready to become a Catholic if only his life were given to him. When his pleadings were received with contempt, he regained a spark of manhood, and walked with some dignity to the Tower, from which he was shortly taken to the scaffold.

This ended all insurrections against the royal authority of James ; yet the defeat of the insurgents was followed by a horrible series of trials and executions, known as the "Bloody Assizes." Chief Justice Jeffreys, the presiding judge, before whom the accused were brought, displayed a delight absolutely infernal in inflicting the most fearful punishments conceivable. All who were suspected of having had the slightest connection with the uprising were hunted down. No one was allowed to defend himself ; but that mattered not, since no defence would have been accepted by this monster. The first victim was Alice Lisle, the aged widow of one of Cromwell's soldiers. She had allowed two panting fugitives to take shelter in her house. Intercession for her life was made to the King, but he would not listen, and she was beheaded.

When a tottering old man was called up for sentence, a gentleman present was so touched with pity that he ventured to say a word for him. "My Lord," said he, "this poor creature is so helpless that he is dependent on the parish for food and lodging." "Have no fear," chuckled the judge, "I will soon relieve the parish of the burden," and he ordered the officers to allow no

delay in executing the prisoner. The penalty of death was merciful compared with some of the punishments. Thus Jeffreys ordered one man to be imprisoned for seven years and to be whipped once each year through every market town in the county. The victim begged the King to allow him to be hanged, but the penalty was not mitigated until a large bribe had been paid to Jeffreys. Fiendish as was his brutality, he was always open to bribery, and acquired an enormous fortune by this means. He chatted, joked, and revelled in the slaughter he imposed. The guide posts along the highways were turned into gibbets, and the air was "tainted with corruption." The wretch boasted that he had hanged more traitors than all his predecessors since the Conquest. King James rewarded him by making him Lord Chancellor of the realm, smilingly remarking as he did so that it would have been well for the judge had he been more severe!

You will recall that Henry IV. of France had issued the Edict of Nantes, granting liberty of worship to Protestants in his kingdom, but in 1685 the Edict was revoked by Louis XIV., who thereby drove thousands of Huguenots to England and America. This encouraged James II. to take steps in the same direction. While he did not dare go so far, he began violating the English law by placing Catholics in the most important offices of church and state. At the same time he stationed an army of 13,000 men near London, that they might be ready to quell any rebellion. Then he superseded the Protestant Duke of Ormond, as Governor of Ireland, with Richard Talbot, Earl of Tyrconnel, a notorious Catholic, with orders to recruit an Irish Roman Catholic army to sustain the King. In following this policy, it should be stated that the King went contrary to the wishes of Pope Innocent XI, who desired and even entreated him to rule according to law. Many of the more prudent English Catholics also remonstrated, but James would not listen.

Another of his measures aimed to bring the principal college of Oxford under Catholic control. While the Fellows were considering the choice of a successor to the dead President of Magdalen College, James ordered them to elect a Catholic of evil reputation. The Fellows replied by choosing a Protestant. James ejected him and the Fellows, and then issued a second Declaration of Indulgence, whose object was to place Catholics in still higher places of power and trust.

James could not see that he had gone too far. He ordered the clergy throughout the kingdom to read his Declaration of Indulgence on a certain Sunday from their pulpits. The Archbishop of Canterbury, at the head of six bishops, begged the King to excuse them from this command. He refused; but when the appointed Sunday came, only a very few ministers obeyed the order, and they saw their congregations get up and leave during the reading.



The King was so angered that he ordered the rebellious bishops to be sent to the Tower. This tyrannous act caused hundreds of Catholics and many Tory Cavaliers to turn against him. On the way through the streets the bishops were cheered by thousands, for all loved and respected them. At the trial, not one of the judges dared say the Declaration of Indulgence was legal, and a prompt verdict of not guilty was rendered. London received the news with bonfires, illuminations, and shouts of rejoicing.

It was only a short time before this that an event took place whose consequences were of momentous importance to the kingdom: this was the birth, on June 10th, of James Francis Edward, son of the King and of his second wife, Mary of Modena. By his first wife the King had already two daughters—Mary, who had married William, Prince of Orange, and lived in Holland, and a younger daughter, Anne, married to George, Prince of Denmark, and then living in London. Both daughters were ardent Protestants, and it was because of the prospect that one of them would ascend the throne upon the death of James that the English people had submitted to his many violations of law.

The birth of a prince, however, dashed all these hopes, for he would of course be reared by his father as a strict Catholic. The angry people declared that no prince had been born, and that the infant was the child of obscure parents whom the royal couple were trying to palm off upon them as the legal successor to the throne. The disappointment was so bitter that on the day the bishops were set at liberty a number of leading citizens sent a secret and urgent invitation to William, Prince of Orange, to come to England with an army to defend the claim of his wife, Mary, to the English throne. William took time to consider the important matter and then decided to accept the invitation. He was greatly influenced in taking this step by the warm support of the leading Catholic princes of Europe—excepting the King of France—and by the friendship of the Pope himself, who made no secret of his disgust with the idiotic rashness of the English King.

James had no suspicion of what was going on, but he did gain an unmistakable hint of the truth when one of the principal regiments of his army, being drawn up in line before him, he haughtily told them that all who would not agree to help in carrying out his intentions relating to the "Test Act" must quit the service. To his dismay near all the soldiers immediately laid down their weapons. James sent to Ireland for Catholic troops, for he could depend upon no others. Louis of France saw the peril of the King and warned him repeatedly; but James would pay no heed, nor did he believe there was a possibility of a successful uprising until he learned that the Prince of Orange and his armament were on the eve of sailing for England. Then the terrified numskull tried to conciliate his subjects by making concessions, but it was too late



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